

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments to the specification and arguments are submitted herewith.

Claims 1-29 were pending in this application. Thus, claims 1-29 are pending for examination, with claims 1, 9, and 19 being independent claims.

I. Objections to the Specification

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action objects to the specification as purportedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter in claims 2, 10, and 21. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with this objection, Applicant has amended the specification, as indicated on page 2 of this amendment, to include the language of claim 2 as originally filed. Applicant asserts that the specification, as amended, clearly provides antecedent basis for the subject matter of claims 2, 10, and 21. Since the amendment incorporates language found in the original claim set, as filed, no new matter has been added. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by Butler (WO 97/01926). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Butler (serial No. PCT/US96/11014) belongs to the same family as the present application, and therefore may not form the basis of a rejection of the present application. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the amendment mailed October 3, 2002. As shown on page 2 of that amendment, Applicant had inserted the following paragraph on page 1 of the specification, under the title:

This application is a divisional of prior application No. 08/981,109, filed on May 26, 1998, entitled "DIGITAL OFFSET CORRECTOR", which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,274,869, issued August 14, 2001. This prior application No. 08/981,109 was filed as a National Phase of PCT application No. PCT/US96/11014, which PCT application was filed on June 28, 1996.

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Butler, as asserted in the present Office Action, is the PCT application referred to in the above paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal R. Butler, Applicant

By: 

James H. Morris, Reg. No.: 34,681
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2211
Telephone: (617) 720-3500

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